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REMARKS

Applicants have considered the outstanding official action. It is respectfully submitted that the claims are in condition for formal allowance as set forth below.

Claims 58-65 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper dependent form based on the "actuator" as claimed at claim 58, line 5 and claim 60, line 2. Applicants have amended claims 58 and 60-62 to clarify what is being claimed. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 42-70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite based on the following terms:

- in claims 42 and 70: "a recovery area";
- in claim 60: "oscillating and/or translation movement";
- in claim 69: "said carriages are self-moving and remote-controlled".

Claims 42-44, 51, 53-54 and 66-70 have been canceled.

However, applicants have amended the phrase "a recovery area" from claim 42 in the allowed claims where an allowed

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claim has been amended to include the limitations of base claim 42. Also, applicants have amended claim 60, and any other allowed claims which have been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 60, to specifically state the three alternatives defined by the phrase "oscillating and/or translation movement". Since claim 69 has been canceled, the § 112, second paragraph rejection of claim 69 is now moot. Withdrawal of the § 112, second paragraph rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's statement that the subject matter of claims 45-50, 52 and 55-65 is allowable if these claims are rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, applicants have amended these claims to place them in proper form so as to not be dependent on a rejected base claim. For ease of review, applicants have set forth below the prior claim number with the corresponding current claim number as rewritten. Also for ease of reference and review of some prior claims with multiple dependencies, the current claim number has been used and is denoted by an asterisk (\*).

<u>Prior Claim</u>	<u>Current Claim</u>
45/44/43/42	45
46/45	46

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47/44/43/42	47
48/45	48
49/46	49
50/42	50
50/43/42	71
50/44/43/42	72
52/51/42	52
52/51/43/42	73
52/51/44/43/42	74
55/54/42	55
55/54/43/42	75
55/54/44/43/42	76
56/55/54/42	56
56/75*	77
56/76*	78
57/45	57
58/55/54/42	58
58/75*	79
58/76*	80
59/58/55/54/42	59
59/79*	81
59/80*	82
60/59/58/55/54/42	60
60/81*	83
60/82*	84
61/60/59/58/55/54/42	61
61/83*	85
61/84*	86
62/60/59/58/55/54/42	62
62/83*	87

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62/84*	88
63/62/60/59/58/55/54/42	63
63/87*	89
63/88*	90
64/63/62/60/59/58/55/54/42	64
64/89*	91
64/90*	92
65/59/58/55/54/42	65
65/81*	93
65/82*	94

Accordingly, these claims are in proper form. Formal allowance of these claims, i.e., current claims 45-50, 52, 55-65, and 71-94, is respectfully requested.

The outstanding rejections based on art are as follows:

- (1) Claims 42-43, 51 and 69-70 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,820,837 B2 (Long);
- (2) Claims 44 and 53 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Long in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,039,284 (Lehrieder);
- (3) Claims 42-43, 51, 54 and 66-70 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,679,451 B1 (Biagiotti '451) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,730,389 (Biagiotti '389); and

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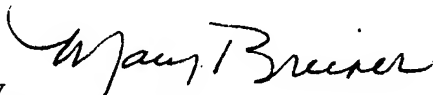
(4) Claims 44 and 53 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)  
over Biagiotti '451 and Biagiotti '389 as  
applied to claims 42-43 above, and further in  
view of Lehrieder.

Applicants have canceled the rejected claims,  
i.e., claims 42-44, 51, 53-54, and 66-70. Accordingly, the  
outstanding rejections based on art are rendered moot.  
Withdrawal of the § 102 and § 103 rejections is respectfully  
requested.

Reconsideration and formal allowance of the claims  
is respectfully urged.

Respectfully submitted,

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